

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-14 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1 and 9 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Llewellyn (U.S. Patent 4,748,993); and Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Llewellyn as applied to Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14, and further in view of Keeny et al. (U.S. Patent 6,018,000).

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended herein. These amendments are believed to find support in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed, for example, page 3, lines 6-22. Hence, amended Claims 1 and 9 are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

Briefly, Claim 1 of the present invention is directed to a dish rack for a dishwasher includes a frame and a coating covering the frame and configured to distribute water over a surface of the coating in a form of a substantially uniform film, wherein the surface of the coating has a surface roughness of $R_z \geq 5 \mu\text{m}$. By providing such a coating, the dish rack distributes water over the surface of the coating in a film sufficiently thin to evaporate with a small amount of heat.¹

Llewellyn discloses a rack for holding nipples in a dishwasher. Nevertheless, Llewellyn clearly fails to teach "a coating covering said frame and configured to distribute water over a surface of the coating in a form of a substantially uniform film, wherein the surface of the coating has a surface roughness of $R_z \geq 5 \mu\text{m}$ " as recited in Claim 1. Figure 3 of Llewellyn merely shows a sectional end view of the rack, and clearly does not illustrate the

¹ Specification, page 3, lines 6-22.

surface of the rack such that any degree of smoothness or micro-roughness imparted on its surface can be ascertained. As mentioned previously, in general, a smooth surface is preferred over a rough surface for a dishwasher rack as stated in the Office Action, and thus using a plastic such as nylon, a coating technique such as a fluidized bed coating produce very smooth coatings having a surface roughness below 1 microns. On the contrary, in the dish rack recited in Claim 1, the surface of the coating has a surface roughness which is increased to a certain micro-roughness sufficient to distribute water over the surface of the coating such that the water forms thin films, (not drops, on the surface of the coating, thereby evaporated by a small amount of heat.) Furthermore, as stated in the Office Action, Llewellyn clearly fails to disclose or even suggest any micro-roughness on the surface of the coating. Nor does Llewellyn disclose or suggest the distribution of water over the surface of the coating such that the water becomes thin films and thus evaporated by a small amount of heat. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the structure recited in Claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from Llewellyn.

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Keeny et al. simply disclose mixtures of thermoplastic vinylidene fluoride based resins and polyamide resins to be coated on various wire goods, and nowhere do Keeny et al. teach or even suggest "a coating covering said frame and configured to distribute water over a surface of the coating in a form of a substantially uniform film, wherein the surface of the coating has a surface roughness of $R_z \geq 5 \mu\text{m}$ " as recited in Claim 1. Therefore, the structure recited in Claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from Keeny et al.

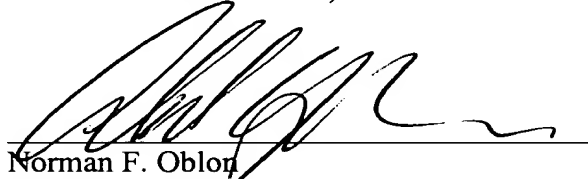
Because Claim 9 is believed to include subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in Claim 1 to the extent discussed above, Claim 9 is also believed to be distinguishable from Llewellyn and Keeny et al.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1 and 9 are believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-14 ultimately depend from either Claim 1 or 9, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-14 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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